GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1823
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
LAUNCHING OF MICRO SATELLITES
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Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO is planning to launch micro-satellites in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith likely expenditure to be incurred;

(c) the objectives behind launching of such micro-satellites alongwith the progress made so far; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to the country as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following micro-satellites will be launched by India's PSLV as piggy backs along with Indian satellites:-
a. RUBIN-8 satellite weighing 7 kg from Germany for communication experiments; b. NLS-4 Cluster of 6 Satellites weighing 25 kg from University of Toronto, Canada for scientific research and technology demonstrations; c. NLS-5 satellite weighing 14 kg for University of Toronto, Canada for communication experiments; d. A Cluster of 3 Nano-satellites called CUBESATS all weighing together 6 kgs from Netherlands for scientific observations and technology experiments; e. X-SAT satellite weighing 120 kgs from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore for technology demonstrations;

The launch of these satellites by PSLV will not involve additional expenditure since they are launched alongwith Indian primary satellites and use very small spare capacity of the rocket.

(c) The micro-satellites are used for testing new technologies of miniaturization or for conducting applications experiments.

(d) The launch of micro-satellites by Indian launch vehicles promotes international co-operation and also provides revenues as per prevailing international rates.